

S*T*O*P VAWA STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2022-2025

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Priorities

- Provide specialized culturally-sensitive (to include deaf and hard of hearing) training/retraining in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking to include dispatchers
- Provide ongoing training on identifying the predominant aggressor and decreasing dual arrest
- Strengthen Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams (DVFRT) and encourage active participation
- Strengthen training of the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)
- Enhance and expand the prioritization of warrants related to sex trafficking data collection information technology
- Provide mandatory training on certification for the U Visa and T Visa
- Provide training in coordination with the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, or other approved agencies
- Provide domestic violence and sexual assault specialized units and/or advocate positions (such as, Jessica Gonzales Victim Assistants, bilingual officers, sexual assault crime investigators, domestic violence coordinators/investigators, sex trafficking advocates, etc.)
- Provide Trauma Informed Responses (including services, policies, training, and certification)
- Coordinate the growth and development of Sexual Assault Response Teams in jurisdictions that do not have a fully developed team
- Develop and strengthen policies, protocols, best practices, and training for law enforcement agencies relating to the investigation of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and/or sex trafficking cases; and the appropriate treatment of victims and crime victims' rights

Goals and Objectives

- Continue intensive training and coordination regarding Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) implementation
- Provide training to law enforcement statewide regarding crime victims' rights laws and policies
- Develop and support a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Domestic Violence Coordination Council, and Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) for each jurisdiction
- Coordinate with specialized sexual assault trainers to ensure training is provided throughout the state
- Develop new policies, Memorandums of Understandings, and partnerships between law enforcement agencies and victim service providers to coordinate victim service to include College/Universities (Title IX); victim service providers must receive fair compensation

- for their work in these partnerships
- Offer ongoing comprehensive intimate partner violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation and sex-trafficking training to law enforcement statewide
- Develop or expand specialized domestic violence and sexual assault units within all major jurisdictions/agencies
- Develop policies and inform officers on the use of language access programs

PROSECUTION

Priorities

- Provide mandatory training on certification for the U Visa and T Visa for judges, court commissioners, and appropriate staff who are certifiers
- Provide specialized and expanded culturally competent and bilingual staffing (including for deaf and hard of hearing)
- Provide specialized and expanded culturally competent services (including deaf and hard of hearing)
- Maintain participation in Sexual Assault Response Teams
- Provide training in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, sex-trafficking, and prosecutorial best practices
- Provide Trauma Informed Response (including services, policies, training, and certification)
- Develop and strengthen policies, protocols, best practices and training for prosecutors relating to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and/or sex trafficking cases; and the appropriate treatment of victims and crime victims' rights

Goals and Objectives

- Maintain and enhance existing dedicated domestic violence and sexual assault units to include investigators and other support staff
- Continue the establishment of Sexual Assault Response Teams in each jurisdiction
- Maintain and support domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking training for appropriate parties (prosecutors, judges, police, interpreters, translators, etc.) with emphasis on crime victims' rights, lethality assessments, cultural sensitivity, cross training, case management, and referrals (Abuse Intervention Programs and Victim)
- Support domestic violence and sexual assault units and/or personnel in each jurisdiction
- Continue and expand training on domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking for appropriate parties (prosecutors, judges, police, Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Room personnel, Court Commissioner, etc.) with emphasis on lethality assessments, cultural sensitivity, cross training, case management, and referrals (Abuse Intervention Programs and Victim)

VICTIM SERVICES

Priorities

- Maintain intimate partner violence and sexual assault core services to survivors on

- numerous platforms, including remote services
- Enhance culturally sensitive services to include all populations regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, and/or religion (including but not limited to, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, limited English proficiency, multi-ethnic, Latino/Hispanic, Black, immigrant/refugee, disabled, and deaf and hard of hearing, homeless)
- Provide specialized and expanded culturally competent services (including deaf and hard of hearing)
- Offer hospital-based services that ensure immediate crisis services to victims (including referral to community based-programs, Advocacy-based Crisis Intervention, Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner programs)
- Provide long-term support for victims (including counseling, housing, transportation and transitional support)
- Develop safety planning
- Promote training on victim confidentiality and cyber security; ensure victim confidentiality and privacy
- Provide civil legal representation to survivors and their families
- Provide Trauma Informed Response (including services, policies, training, and certification)
- Develop and promote state, local, or tribal legislation and policies that enhance best practices for responding to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, sex trafficking, and strangulation
- Develop, implement, or enhance Sexual Assault Response Teams, Domestic Violence Coordinating Councils, Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams, or other similar coordinated community responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking
- Maintain advocacy-based case management to include community-based advocacy programs, responses, and accompaniment
- Maintain advocacy-based hospital services that ensure immediate services to victims including referrals to community-based programs inclusive of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking, as well as long-term services provided by hospitals
- Strengthen training on the Lethality Assessment Program in hospitals
- Provide training to advocates on crime victims' rights and available resources

Goals and Objectives

- Provide required and specialized services to all victims including culturally linguistic, trauma-informed services, and culturally specific to include the following:
 - Receipt and response to hotline calls on a 24-hour basis;
 - Short-term safe accommodation for the victim and any minor children;
 - Crisis counseling for the victim, family members or friends to alleviate the immediate crisis;
 - Information and referral services as needed to community resources;
 - Continuing counseling;
 - Legal services for both domestic violence and sexual assault (i.e. protective order representation, family law representation);

- Accompaniment for legal or medical/hospital services;
- Assistance and support for the victim in using mental health, social, and medical resources
- Supportive services to help meet the need for housing, employment, education, parenting skills, childcare, health care, and transportation.
- Provide education and training to the community to include outreach activities designed to reach unserved and underserved victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
- Outreach to immigrant populations
- Increase domestic violence and sexual assault advocates and other specialized personnel to adequately respond to the rising number of referrals from increased use of the Lethality Assessment Program statewide
- Create stronger partnerships and/or develop MOUs with collaborating agencies
- Promote and maintain hospital-based services to victims including hospital-based victim advocacy and clinical forensic programs for sexual assault (SAFE) and domestic violence
- Enhance and maintain required and specialized services to victims which are culturally linguistic, culturally specific, disabled, and/or deaf and hard of hearing
- Enhance, develop, and promote partnerships between victim service providers, law enforcement, prosecution, etc.

COURTS

Priorities

- Provide specialized staffing – bilingual and/or multi-lingual court and deaf and hard of hearing personnel such as court advocates, interpreters, or investigators
- Provide victim access to courts and uphold victims' rights
- Provide central repository/databases that support victim safety and confidentiality such as Victim Information and Notification Everyday Protective Orders
- Provide outreach and education to include judicial and commissioner training
- Provide training for judges, court commissioners, and appropriate staff
- Provide representation for victims in criminal and civil cases
- Develop, train or expand units of law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and prosecutors specifically targeting violent crimes against women, including sexual assault and domestic violence;
- Develop or strengthen victim services programs, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence programs; developing or improving the delivery of victim services to underserved populations; providing specialized domestic violence court advocates in courts where a significant number of protection orders are granted; and increasing reporting and reducing attrition rates for cases involving violent crimes against women, including sexual assault, domestic violence and dating violence; and
- Support formal and informal statewide, multidisciplinary efforts, to the extent not supported by state funds, to coordinate the response of state law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts, victim services agencies, and other state agencies and departments, to violent crimes against women, including sexual assault, domestic violence and dating violence

Goals and Objectives

- Continue and increase representation for victims in criminal and civil cases in every jurisdiction in Maryland
- Continue and increase victim-centered training for judicial and court personnel, including interpreters

DISCRETIONARY

Priorities

- Maintain capacity building for dedicated domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking victim services
- Provide specialized training domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking to include compliance with best practices and new laws regarding victims' rights
- Strengthen and coordinate the Lethality Assessment Program statewide and enhancing the use of the Lethality Assessment Program to promote an effective coordinated community response
- Enhance and maintain county/jurisdiction-based Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams, Domestic Violence Coordinating Councils, and Sexual Assault Response Teams
- Maintain core services
- Provide specialized training in domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, strangulation, and sex-trafficking initiatives
- Coordinate community response in the form of local coordinating councils or development of multidisciplinary teams, direct services, and family justice centers
- Provide Trauma Informed Response (including services, policies, training, and certification)

Goals and Objectives

- Continue expansion of Coordinating Councils per jurisdiction to involve hospital-based domestic violence programs, to include the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Maryland Health Care Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and other coalitions throughout the state
- Establish or support local Sexual Assault Response Teams in every jurisdiction to include the required minimum representation of: law enforcement, prosecution, community-based advocacy, and forensics
- Enhance training and coordination on the Lethality Assessment Program to first responders, service providers, allied professionals, and others as necessary.
- Continue to expand services to limited English proficient victims, and other underserved populations (including for deaf and hard of hearing)
- Continue victim-centered training and advocacy initiatives in coordination with other stakeholders
- Continue support to the local Domestic Violence Coordinating Councils and Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams
- Statewide expansion of specialized sexual assault trainers